

Message Text

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12
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 INT-05 TRSE-00 L-03

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01

SP-02 /055 W

----- 081506

R 302150Z JUL 76

FM AMCONSUL WINNIPEG

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1666

AMCONSUL TORONTO

UNCLAS WINNIPEG 296

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, EINV, CA

SUBJ: SASKATCHEWAN GOVERNMENT DISCUSSIONS WITH POTASH
PRODUCERS

REF: WINNIPEG 247

1. REGINA-LEADER POST OF JULY 23 REPORTS THAT SASKATCHEWAN GOVERNMENT IS "APPROACHING TALKS NEXT MONTH WITH POTASH PRODUCERS CAUTIOUSLY AND DOES NOT WANT TO RAISE UNWARRANTED EXPECTATIONS ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF THE DISCUSSIONS".

2. STATEMENT WAS ATTRIBUTED TO ATTORNEY GENERAL ROY ROMANOW WHO LED DISCUSSIONS WITH AMBASSADOR ON JULY 13 (SEE REFTEL).

3. OTHER EXCERPTS FROM ARTICLE BEING POUCHED WERE:

"-- DATE NOT YET SET FOR TALKS;

"-- CANADIAN POTASH PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION (CPPA) NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT PETER JACK OF SASKATOON SAID TWO RECENT DEVELOPMENTS HAVE IMPROVED PROSPECTS FOR MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATIONS. ONE IS RECENT RELEASE TO GOS BY THE INDUSTRY OF ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION ON INDIVIDUAL POTASH COMPANIES OPERATING IN THE PROVINCE.

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"-- MR. JACK ALSO SAID URANIUM ROYALTY NEGOTIATIONS

BETWEEN THAT INDUSTRY AND THE GOC CONCLUDED THIS SPRING
COULD ALSO PROVIDE A PATTERN FOR TALKS WITH THE POTASH
PRODUCERS.

"-- WHILE GOC MIGHT BE WILLING TO CONSIDER HOW RESERVE
TAX WOULD AFFECT INDIVIDUAL OPERATIONS, MR. ROMANOW
STRESSED 'WE WOULD NOT BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS ANY
MAJOR CHANGE IN THE LEVEL OF REVENUE PRODUCED (BY THE
TAX)'.

"-- MR. TOMANOW CHALLENGED MR. JACK'S CLAIM THAT THERE
IS ANY PARALLEL BETWEEN THE URANIUM AND POTASH PRODUCERS.
THE URANIUM NEGOTIATORS NOT ONLY PROVIDED THE FINANCIAL
INFORMATION REQUESTED BY THE GOVERNMENT BUT ALSO
SUPPLIED COMPANIES OF THEIR SALES CONTRACTS WITH
URANIUM PURCHASERS. ON TOP OF THIS, THE GOS WAS NOT
EMBROILED IN LITIGATION WITH THE URANIUM INDUSTRY WHEN
THE ROYALTY TALKS WERE IN PROGRESS, ROMANOW SAID."

4. COMMENT: ATTORNEY GENERAL ROMANOW, WHO IS ALSO
DEPUTY PREMIER, IS MAINTAINING A CAUTIOUS, YET TOUGH
APPROACH WHICH HE CONVEYED TO AMBASSADOR ON JULY 13.
HUTSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, PRESS COMMENTS, BUSINESS FIRMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976WINNIP00296
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760296-0016
From: WINNIPEG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976072/aaaaaboa.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 WINNIPEG 247
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hackerp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 APR 2004 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <03 JAN 2005 by hackerp0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SASKATCHEWAN GOVERNMENT DISCUSSIONS WITH POTASH PRODUCERS
TAGS: EMIN, EINV, CA, US
To: OTTAWA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006